

AboutTown Magazine

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AboutTown

Official Magazine of the City of Edina



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AboutTown

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of news, activities and programs that are important to them.
We include articles of interest about our citizens and
community history as well.

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American Cancer Society To Host Area Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society will
hold a Relay For Life June 27-28 at
the Edina Community Center's
Kullman Field. An opening
ceremony will be held 6 p.m.
that Friday.

The American Cancer Society's
Relay for Life is a celebration of life
in honor and in memory of those
whose lives have been touched by
cancer. Teams of 8 to 15 people
walk, jog or run in a relay around
the track for 18 hours to raise
money through donations to help
in the fight against cancer.
Participants will continue to walk
Friday night until Saturday
morning, symbolizing a cancer
patient's journey from darkness
(diagnosis) to light (recovery).

Organizers are hoping at least 700
people from the community will
participate in the event. The
money raised go toward helping
the American Cancer Society
continue its programs of research,
education, advocacy and service to
cancer patients. Relays for Life
take place in more than 90
communities throughout
Minnesota.

Teams will camp out around the
track. During the relay, at least

one person from each team is
walking, jogging or running.
Meanwhile, other team members
are enjoying food, games, music,
prizes and camaraderie. Hundreds
of luminaries in honor or in
memory of someone touched by
cancer will line the track after dark.

*For more information on the local
event, contact event co-chairs
Andrew Davis or Anne Carlson
Davis, 952-944-5562.*

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APRIL 2003

About Town Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7 p.m., Edina HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall.	2	3 Noon, Kit & Kaboodle, Edinborough Park. 5:30 p.m., Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	4	5
6 7 p.m., Good News Big Band, Edinborough Park.	7	8 Noon, Will Hale & The Tadpole Parade, Edinborough Park. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall.	9	10 7 p.m., David Wahlbridge & The Big Fun Show, Edinborough Park.	11	12
13 7 p.m., Golden Valley Orchestra, Edinborough Park.	14	15 Noon, Wonderful World of Woody, Edinborough Park. 7 p.m., Edina HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Classic Brass Quintet, Edinborough Park.	16 7 a.m., Recycling and Solid Waste Commission, Edina City Hall.	17 Noon, Bob the Beachcomber, Edinborough Park. 5:30 p.m., Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	18	19
20	21 5 p.m., Volunteer Recognition Reception, Edinborough Park.	22	23 8 a.m., Senior Advisory Council, Edina Senior Center.	24	25 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Podiatrist Appointments, Edina Senior Center.	26
27	28 7 p.m., Larry McDonough, Edinborough Park.	29	30 7 p.m., Edina Historical Society presentation of the history of the Edina City Hall site, Edina Historical Museum. 7:30 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.			

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MAY 2003

About Town Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Noon, Children's Music with Bruce Bell, Edinborough Park. 5:30 p.m., Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	2 6 p.m., Southdale YMCA "Stars Under the Big Top" benefit dinner and auction, Minnesota Valley Country Club.	3
4 7 p.m., Music School Performance, Edinborough Park.	5	6 7 p.m., Edina HRA and City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., American Dance Ensemble, Edinborough Park.	7	8 Noon, Kristi's Kid Songs, Edinborough Park.	9	10
11 7 p.m., Northern Winds Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	12	13 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Somewhat Dixieland Band, Edinborough Park.	14	15 5:30 p.m., Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	16	17
18 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Band, Edinborough Park.	19	20 7 p.m., Edina HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Royal Scottish Country Dance, Edinborough Park.	21 7 a.m., Recycling and Solid Waste Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., "The Richness of Not Having," Edina Historical Society.	22 Noon, Wiggle, Jiggle & Jam, Edinborough Park.	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day. Most City offices closed.	27 7 p.m., Human Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	28 8 a.m., Senior Advisory Council, Edina Senior Center. 7:30 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	29 4 p.m., Edina Art Center Board, Edina Art Center. 5 p.m., Clay Exhibit Opening, Edina Art Center.	30 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Podiatrist Appointments, Edina Senior Center.	

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About Town Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 7 p.m., Edina HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall.	4	5 5:30 p.m., Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	6	7 10 a.m., Season opening of the Edina Aquatic Center. 6 p.m., Barbary Coast Dixieland Band concert, Edina Community Center.
8 11 a.m., Parade of Boats, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Good News Big Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	9	10 1:15-3 p.m., Blood Pressure Clinic, Edina Senior Center. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.	11	12	13	14
15 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	16 1 p.m., Monday and Wednesday Playground Program begins. 1 p.m., Super 6 & 7 program begins.	17 1 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday Playground Program begins. 7 p.m., Edina HRA & City Council, Edina City Hall.	18 7 a.m., Recycling and Solid Waste Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Mary Cutrufello Acoustic Rock 'n Roll, Centennial Lakes Park.	19 5:30 p.m., Board of Appeals, Edina City Hall.	20 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Podiatrist Appointments, Edina Senior Center. 9:30 a.m., Bike Trekkers program begins. 11 a.m., League of Champs 3 vs. 3 Basketball program begins.	21
22 7 p.m., Calhoun Isles Community Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	23 9 a.m., Cheer Camp for ages 5 to 8 begins. 10:45 a.m., Cheer Camp for ages 9 to 12 begins. 7 p.m., Claire Van Der Crommert, Centennial Lakes Park.	24 6:30 p.m., Clown Class begins.	25 7 p.m., Cathy & Tom Platenberg, Centennial Lakes Park. 7:30 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	26	27 6 p.m., Edina Relay for Life begins, Edina Community Center.	28 Noon, Edina Relay for Life ends, Edina Community Center.
29	30 9 a.m., Fab 4 & 5 program begins.					

Spring Calendar Highlights

April 1 9 a.m.-noon, Senior men's softball registration, Edina Senior Center.

April 15 1:15-3 p.m., Blood Pressure Clinic, Edina Senior Center.

May 13 1:15-3 p.m., Blood Pressure Clinic, Edina Senior Center.

STARS UNDER THE BIG TOP

What: Held annually, the Southdale YMCA's "Stars Under the Big Top" benefit dinner and auction provides an evening of friendship and fellowship for many with the goal being to help youth and families in the community. All proceeds from "Stars Under the Big Top" are directly applied to scholarships that enable youth and teens in the community to participate in YMCA programs such as Youth Sports, Youth in Government and Camp Kici Yapi.

When: A silent auction will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, May 2, followed by dinner and a live auction at 8 p.m.

Where: Minnesota Valley Country Club, Bloomington.

Info: 952-835-2567.

RACE FOR THE CURE

What: The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation this spring will host the Twin Cities Race for the Cure. The race is one of the top 5K competitive runs in the country with separate 5K run and wheel races for women and men, a 5K co-ed walk, a one-mile Family Fun walk and Kids' Fun Run. The annual event raises more than \$1 million for breast cancer research.

When: Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, 7 a.m. to noon

Where: Southdale Center. The start of the race will be at 69th Street and York Avenue, between Southdale and the Galleria.

EDINA GARDEN COUNCIL PLANT SALE

What: The Edina Garden Council holds an annual plant sale to raise money for its work in Edina parks. All plants are grown from seed and cared for at the Arneson Acres greenhouse and the homes of club members. The sale includes affordable bedding plants, hanging baskets, herbs, mulch and crafts.

When: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, May 9 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10.

Where: Arneson Acres Park, 4711 W. 70th St.

Info: Marjorie Ruedy, 952-922-2712.

PARADE OF BOATS

What: More than 150 radio-controlled and model boats will be on exhibit at the Edina Model Yacht Club's annual Parade of Boats. The annual event draws large crowds of spectators and model boat builders each year. The Parade of Boats showcases a variety of radio-controlled electric and model boats, including tugboats, sailboats, police boats, submarines, steamboats and high-speed electric racers. At the event, club members sail and race their model boats for everyone to view. Additional boats will also be displayed inside of the nearby Centrum Building, where club members will demonstrate how model boats are built.

When: Sunday, June 8, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.

Info: John Bishop, 952-922-1745.

A Word From The Mayor

This year will be one of challenge and opportunity for the City of Edina. For the past several months, headlines have made known the State of Minnesota's budget deficit. There is no doubt that the problem will trickle down to local municipalities in some way, through the loss of state programs or funding.

Edina, though, is in a much better situation than most cities in the state. Less than 5 percent of the City's operating revenues come from state aides. Nevertheless, Edina will likely be affected by cuts at the state level and, as a result, we must be very prudent in our budget planning and in our five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

A CIP is a plan outlining projected expenses for a certain amount of time. A CIP requires great foresight and research. The City must predict the lifespan of equipment and future neighborhood and community needs. To keep the document fresh and up-to-date, the City Council is presented with a new five-year CIP each year.

We are particularly proud of the projects completed last year. Projects funded through the 2002 CIP included a new Edina Senior Center, new amenities at the Edina Aquatic Center and renovation of Edina Liquor - Grandview and the Braemar Golf Course clubhouse. In addition, construction of a new Edina City Hall and public safety building and South Metro Public Safety Training Facility began.

Since the Senior Center opened at Grandview Square in March 2002, 451 seniors have joined. Besides its membership, programming at the facility has grown. New programs include pinochle, Adventure Slide and Movie

Series, square dancing, genealogy interest group, duplicate bridge group, 70-plus softball, quarterly Elder Learning Center classes, Art Center classes, pool tournaments, Community Education classes, social dances, bird watching and Safety Seminars. In addition, speakers have presented information on such topics as "Tea Talk and Tasting," "Five Wishes" and "Road Rage."

Edina Aquatic Center patrons were extremely pleased with the layout of the renovated facility. Residents were so excited for the new amenities there that some waited more than two hours on opening day to be one of the first on the water slides and cable ride. Moving the waterslide to the west made the facility more user-friendly - it opened up the deck, created more water space and provided a safer environment. Season ticket sales were up, after dropping the previous two years. In 2002, more than 3,450 season passes were sold, up from 3,167 in 2001.



Edina Aquatic Center waterslide

After being closed for seven weeks in February and March 2002 for remodeling and expansion, Edina Liquor - Grandview reopened on March 25 with much anticipation. The store was completely gutted and redesigned to better serve our customers for years to come. We were able to add about 1,000 square feet to our sales floor by expanding the store ten feet to the east and by moving the beer cooler to

(continued on next page)

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Edina Liquor – Grandview

the back of the store. We now have a store that stands out on the corner of Vernon Avenue and Gus Young Lane with high visibility. The store's interior incorporates

earth tones with a lot of natural sunlight. (In the old store we had one window – now we have seven.) Our wine selection has increased by more than 40 percent and the cooler has seven more doors, further expanding the selection. Sales have increased, on average, about \$30,000 a month since the reopening. More than 60 percent of that total is due to increased wine sales.

Rental revenue is up at Braemar Golf Course after the clubhouse's Braemar Room was expanded and renovated last year. Revenues were up about \$3,700 last year, which is remarkable since there were minimal bookings through March because construction was still in progress.



Braemar Golf Course Clubhouse

Through January, revenues for bookings in 2003 were up almost \$7,500. There were a few weekends this winter that the Braemar Room was booked Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The addition of the fireplace and lounge area has really warmed the room up, making it more attractive to renters. The new meeting rooms in the facility's fully accessible lower level works well for groups of 20 to 35. The meeting rooms give Braemar a new market to corner, as the clubhouse did not have capabilities for that size of group in the past.

The CIP for 2003 includes money for a new playground structure at Edinborough Park, a new maintenance building at Fred Richards Executive Golf Course and more than \$500,000 for the Park and Recreation Department for such things as new playground equipment at Normandale and Sherwood parks, furnishings for the Edina Senior Center, development of a skate park at Yorktown Park adjacent to the Southdale YMCA, building repairs at the historic Cahill School and Grange Hall, and a new entrance to Arneson Acres Park. The CIP also includes funding in 2003 for a new public safety communications system; a new pumper for the Fire Department; \$3 million in street, sidewalk and traffic signal improvement and more than \$2.5 million for well, filter plant and lift station rehabilitations. The Council is convinced it must continually reinvest in our facilities and infrastructure to maintain Edina as the "preeminent place for living, learning, raising families and doing business."

Edina's municipal finances are strong. Last summer, independent bond rating agency Standard & Poor's upgraded its rating for the City's general obligation bonds to AAA, the company's highest rating. Moody's Investors Services, another



Edina Senior Center

independent bond-rating agency, in 2000 gave the City's its highest rating, Aaa. Edina is just one of three Minnesota cities to have the top rating from both

agencies. The high bond ratings help ensure that future Edina debt will be issued with the lowest possible interest expense and cost to the taxpayer.

The City's 2003 budget totals \$23,857,719. Of the \$23.86 million budget, \$3.15 million is for general government operations, \$4.79 million is for public works, \$10.78 million is for public safety, \$2.9 million is for the Park and Recreation Department and \$620,000 is for non-departmental expenditures. The total tax levy for the year will be \$17.8 million. The City expects to bring in to the General Fund an additional \$6 million through such things as licenses and permits, Edina Liquor sales and other non-tax sources.

Besides managing its finances, the City will continue many of the projects it began in 2002. Among those projects are integrating technology to enhance our service delivery and cost effectiveness and working in partnership with the business community, school district and other governmental agencies to improve our infrastructure and the economic viability of our community.

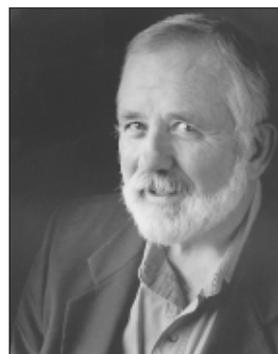
Last spring, the City introduced an improved website, www.cityofedina.com. In addition to improved graphics, the new website features greater usability and interactive applications. In the late fall, e-commerce was introduced. Now, residents and visitors can buy products, apply for permits and register for Park and Recreation Department programs. A goal of the City of Edina Communications Department is to make all forms and applications available online, creating a virtual City Hall where people can do business 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

The City is a strong supporter of the local youth asset-building initiative Connecting With Kids. Connecting With Kids is an effort to create a more supportive and caring school and community environment for Edina's youth. The initiative focuses on developing a community-wide commitment to surround children and adolescents with the wide range of "assets" crucial for healthy development. The City in 2002 showed its commitment to the initiative by adding youth member positions to several of its advisory boards and commissions, organizing youth-friendly events such as City Expo and Splash Jam and planning more summer recreation programs geared toward families.

I take great pride in the reputation our City has earned in the metropolitan area and beyond and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead as we seek better ways to provide great services in a changing and challenging economy.

Dennis F. Maetzold
Mayor

144-Year-Old Edina Public School System Has A Proud Heritage



By Joe Sullivan, Freelance Writer and Edina Resident

Edina's public schools have long been recognized as being among the best in the nation. And surveys have shown that the No. 1 reason people move to Edina is the quality of our public school system. As Edina Mayor Dennis Maetzold observed recently, "The quality of a

community is tied to the quality of its school system."

But the humble beginnings of Edina's public schools go back a long way – 144 years. The earliest settlers of Edina were not here long before they decided they wanted education for their children.

In 1859, what we know today as Edina was still the western part of Richfield Township. On March 27 of that year, residents of what would become northern Edina organized School District 17. And as Paul D. Hesterman noted in his book *History of Edina, Minnesota*, "They agreed ... that school would not start until every family contributed three-fourths of a cord of wood to [heat] the school."

Edina's First School Was Built In 1859 At 'Code's Corner'

Later that year, families living in the northwestern parts of Richfield Township built the district's first school. It was a one-room, white frame building at Code's Corner, an

important intersection named for the George Code family whose farm was near what is now Normandale Lutheran Church at West 62nd Street and Minnesota Highway 100. The school building cost \$600 and the teacher was paid \$150 a year. School vacations coincided with spring planting and fall harvesting, so the children could help in the fields.

The area's population was shifting toward the Edina Mills community near Minnehaha Creek and today's West 50th Street. The Code's Corner School was a long walk for children living in the growing settlement around the mill. So, in February 1872, the officers of School District 17 voted to move the one-room schoolhouse one mile north to the present site of Edina's City Hall. That winter, farmer Code loaded the school building on skids, hitched up his oxen and hauled the building across the snow to the new location.

Second One-Room School Built In 1869 At 70th Street and Cahill Road

In the mid-1850s, a number of Irish families had settled on farms located along both sides of Nine Mile Creek. They decided they also needed a "proper school." In 1854,



Edina Historical Society photo

This "covered wagon school bus" was operated by George Code, with oxen or horses supplying the power. In winter it traveled over the snow on skids.



Edina Historical Society photo

The Cahill school was a white, frame building.

In her 1954 history of the Edina Public Schools, Carol E. Johnson wrote, "The pupils would fight to see who would sit near the [wood-burning] stove during the winter months. They would be toasted on one side and cold on the other." There was lots of recitation and students would often be asked to stand and spell new words or read aloud to other members of the class.

The school was the gathering place for most of the Cahill Settlement's social and civic affairs including elections, dances, parties, plays and lectures. From 1864 to 1884, it also housed Sunday services of St. Patrick's Catholic Church.

Edina's First Multi-Room School Was Built In 1887

In 1887, population growth in District 17 led to the decision to build a larger elementary school as the second site of the

farmer Hugh Darcy deeded two acres of land on the southeast corner of today's West 70th Street and Cahill Road to the school district for \$5. That year, Edina's second one-room school was built on the site and named the Cahill School.

Code's Corner School. It was built of yellow brick and had two schoolrooms.

Increasing numbers of Minneapolis families were moving into the Morningside neighborhood's new residential areas. The yellow brick school was more than a mile away for most Morningside children. According to Johnson's book: "In 1917-18 and 1918-19, Miss Herva Jerolaman was hired to teach [at] the 'Morningside Branch' of the Edina School. A barber shop at West 44th Street and Grimes Avenue was fixed up so that grades one through two could meet there."

Although the 1887 Edina school building had been enlarged and remodeled several times, the village's continuing development resulted in severe overcrowding by the early 1920s.



Hennepin County Historical Society photo

Originally, the 1887 elementary school was a one-story, yellow brick structure with only two classrooms, but two more rooms were added later.

In 1923, a two-room portable school was erected near Grimes and West 45th Street. This helped a little, but school board minutes note, "There is a critical situation in School District 17. There is a lack of school room [sic] to properly care for our children. Unless action is taken at

(continued on next page)

once to build a new school, it will be necessary to have pupils put on half-time.”

Demands For Larger School Brought Controversy

Residents of both Edina and Morningside recognized the need for a new school. But the demands for a new school led to a controversy over where to build it – on the site of the 1887 school on 50th Street in Edina or in Morningside. Eleven different school referenda failed to pass between 1920 and 1924.

Aware that the type of people attracted to his new Country Club residential development would demand quality schools, Samuel Thorpe, Sr., founder of Thorpe Bros. Realty Co., suggested a compromise. He agreed to sell the Wooddale School site at 50th Street and Wooddale Avenue South to the school board for \$1 and pay them \$9,000 for Morningside’s portable school site.

In November 1925, the compromise referendum passed by a narrow margin of three votes. The Wooddale School was built at a cost of \$200,000. The four-room Morningside School was built along more conventional lines on a five-acre tract at West 42nd Street and Grimes. Morningside children in the upper grades and grades one through eight and all Edina students would attend Wooddale.

In December 1926, the new Wooddale and Morningside schools were dedicated. Some 400 students who had been attending the old yellow brick school and the portable schoolhouse in Morningside marched together with their teachers, carrying the flags from the old to the new schools.



Edina Historical Society photo

In 1926, the Wooddale School had 12 classrooms for eight elementary grades and an auditorium that seated 1,110 persons. It also had a library, a kitchen, a cafeteria and private offices for the teachers.

The Wooddale School was enlarged by a rear addition in 1936. With the addition of ninth grade classes, the school served as a junior high school as well as an elementary school.

Most of the Morningside school was torn down in 1979 and replaced by newer, more modern facilities. In 1980, the Wooddale School was retired from active classroom use. It was razed in 1985.

Getting To High School Was A Challenge

In her history of Edina Public Schools, Johnson described the desire and effort required of Edina students who wanted to attend high school in the early 1900s, “After graduating from the eighth grade, if your ambition urged you on to higher education, you really walked and walked! You got up at sunrise and by a system of paths and trails you walked to 43rd Street and Upton Avenue in Minneapolis, caught the 7:01 a.m. streetcar and rode downtown to the old Central High School at 4th Avenue and South 11th Street.”

Catherine (Ryan) Garrison, was the granddaughter of Irish immigrant farmer Patrick Ryan. In a 1996 interview, she remembered riding the Dan Patch railroad in the 1920s to get to and from St. Louis Park High School. “One day in the winter of 1926 or 1927, my sister and I had to walk home after school from the Cahill railroad station through waist-deep snow. We did make it home, but we both froze our legs,” she said.

“After we finished at the one-room Cahill School,” said Jack Delaney, grandson of pioneer Edina settler Michael Delaney, “my brother Bill and I attended DeLaSalle High School on Nicollet Island in downtown Minneapolis. We’d hitchhike to 50th Street and France Avenue and catch the streetcar from there.”



Edina Historical Society photo

In 1946, a \$150,000 bond issue was approved for an addition to Morningside Elementary that included a small library, two more classrooms and a combination auditorium/gymnasium.

By the 1940s, some Edina students in grades 10 through 12 attended private high schools. Besides those enrolled at St. Louis Park, 350 Edina teenagers were being “farmed out” to West and Southwest High Schools in

Minneapolis at an annual estimated outlay of \$50,000 by the school district.



Edina Historical Society photo

Minneapolis schools raised their tuition for out-of-city pupils in 1941. Despite the increase, Edina residents voted to pay the increased tuition, rather than build their own high school.

In 1933, this school bus delivered Edina teenagers to St. Louis Park High School. Earlier, some Cahill students had ridden in an old seven-passenger Packard limousine that was their first school bus.

Edina Builds First High School

World War II and the resulting shortages of building materials delayed construction of an Edina-Morningside junior and senior high school. But after the war, support for the new school resurfaced. Two sites had the most support. One was on Edina Country Club property near 50th Street and Wooddale Avenue, which was still the center of the village’s population. The other was at West 56th Street and Normandale Road, on a turkey farm that was nearer the school district’s geographic center.

Eventually, the turkey farm site won out, and in February 1946, a \$1.25 million school bond issue was passed. Ground was broken in October 1947 and the combination junior/senior high school was dedicated a year later. Classes started in the fall of 1949 and the student body picked the school colors – green and white; the name for

(continued on next page)



In 1949, the new junior-senior high school building had 28 classrooms, 11 special rooms and laboratories. It also had a library and a special radio room. There were specially designed rooms for choral and band rehearsals.

the teams – Hornets; and the name of the student newspaper – *Buzzette*.

The first senior class graduated in the spring of 1951 and in 1952 an auditorium and gymnasium were added to the building.

New Cahill School Replaced 1864 One-Room School
 Shortly after construction began on the new junior/senior high school, the school board began discussing plans for a new brick Cahill School to replace the old frame building. John McCauley, a longtime resident of Edina and grandson of Edina pioneer settler Michael McCauley, served on the Edina School Board from 1945 through 1948. “We decided to draw up a petition for a new Cahill school and it was approved. The school was built right on top of the hill just west of 70th Street and Cahill Road,” he remembered.

When the 90-by-45-foot school opened in 1948, it had only three classrooms. Three more classrooms were added in 1952, making it possible to serve grades one through six,

along with a combination auditorium/gymnasium and a lunchroom. At that point, the old one-room Cahill School was still being used for kindergarten classes.

Before a second remodeling was finished in 1958, the six-classroom, brick Cahill School had been virtually torn down and rebuilt with more classrooms.

Elementary Schools Again Face Overcrowding In 1950s

Soon after the high school was completed in 1949, Wooddale Elementary was bursting at the seams. An appropriation for a new Concord Elementary, to be built just south of the high school, was approved in February 1951 and construction was completed in January 1952. Its pupils came from Wooddale School and St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church where overflow classes had been held.



In 1948, with books, a radio and an old brass bell in their arms, the 46 pupils of the 1864 one-room Cahill School marched to their new school.

In 1954, huge areas of Edina that had shortly before been wooded hills and farmlands were being bulldozed for new houses. To keep pace with the unprecedented growth, a wing was added to Concord School. The 17 classrooms in the new wing were ready in September 1954, exactly doubling Concord’s size.

Construction of another elementary school on a site west of Minnesota Highway 100 and north of what is now Vernon Avenue was next on the district’s agenda. Highlands Elementary was ready for occupancy in September 1957. It was a cheerful building, with 24 classrooms and 13 special rooms. Its features and design proved so practical and efficient that, with a few changes, they were used as a prototype for the remodeled Cahill and new Cornelia schools, allowing a substantial saving in architects’ fees.

Highlands was closed in 1982, in response to declining enrollments and leased to Eden Prairie from 1984 to 1990. It was reopened by the Edina School District in fall 1991.

South View Junior High Opened in 1956

Since 1949, the high school had served as a combination junior/senior high school, but by 1954, plans were under way for a separate junior high. The previously acquired site was on the corner of Southview Lane and Concord Avenue.

The new Edina-Morningside Junior High – later to be renamed South View – opened its doors in September 1956, with 680 seventh- and eighth-graders in 19 classrooms plus 11 classrooms used temporarily for elementary pupils. (Ninth-grade students remained in the senior high building.)

Cornelia Elementary Built And Occupied In 1960

Cornelia Elementary School was completed and occupied at 50th Street and Cornelia Drive in 1960. It was built to serve the new residential areas that had developed around Southdale and Lake Cornelia.

The years 1954 through 1960 had been a frenzied period, with new buildings keeping Edina’s youngsters just one jump ahead of the split-shift. In seven years, Edina Public Schools had grown to a student population of 7,196 from 3,720. Of these, approximately 4,000 were attending six elementary schools, and roughly 3,000 attended the junior high schools.

Valley View Has Had Three Names in 39 Years

Valley View Middle School didn’t always have that name. In 1964, construction of what was originally known as Valley View Junior High began.

Construction was slowed during its early phases because several unmarked graves



This 1994 photo of South View Middle School shows the front of the building largely unchanged since it opened in 1956, except for the handicapped-accessible ramp. A new wing on the back of the school expanded its capacity and facilities substantially in 1993.

(continued on next page)

were found on the site. The remains were moved and given proper re-burial. The school opened on schedule in September 1964.

In 1972, Valley Junior High was renamed Edina West – Lower Division when a second senior high school, called Edina West – Upper Division, opened on a site adjacent to and just north of the original Valley View Building.

After the two senior high schools were combined in the Edina West building in 1981, the junior high next door once again became Valley View.

When South View and Valley View were originally identified as junior high schools, they covered grades seven through nine. At that time, Edina’s elementary schools housed kindergarten through grade six. In fall 1992, both junior high schools were re-designated as middle schools and their student populations were enlarged to include grades six through nine. Since then, Edina’s elementary schools have had kindergarten through grade five.

Countryside And Creek Valley Elementaries Opened In 1966 And 1968

Countryside Elementary opened in 1966 at 5701 Benton Ave. when the Board of Education decided Edina needed still more elementary school space.

Shortly thereafter, the district began developing a design for an elementary school that would be flexible enough to meet foreseeable future needs. When it was built at 6401 Gleason Road in 1968, Creek Valley’s design provided

hexagonal classrooms in clusters of three. In order to share each teacher’s special talents and give students the best class arrangement for all kinds of study, the Creek Valley building featured a new concept called team-teaching. Classroom clusters had folding doors so that classes could be brought together in various combinations.

The Two-High-School Decision

In search of the best solution for overcrowding in Edina’s secondary schools, the school board examined several alternatives in 1970. Ultimately, it was determined that only one of the proposed alternatives would provide a permanent solution.

They decided to build a second high school and continue to operate the existing high school on Highway 100. Smaller enrollment at the overcrowded original high school building would allow more efficient and economical operations there. And the new building would have a number of modern facilities not possible in the 1950s-era high school.

In addition, it was felt that having two high schools of 1,800 students each would enable students to identify better with their respective schools through increased contact with fellow students, teachers, counselors and administrators. The board also foresaw opportunities for wider student participation in all facets of high school life. A \$9.255 million bond issue was approved by the voters on Oct. 20, 1970. Bids for construction of Edina West High School were awarded on May 24, 1971, and the school opened in the fall of 1972. Healthy rivalries developed between the two high schools and

their athletic teams. Edina East teams retained the “Hornets” name and the Edina West teams became the “Cougars.”

The original high school on Highway 100 continued to operate as Edina East until 1981, when it was closed because of declining enrollment and converted to use as a community center. The populations of the two high schools were combined in the fall of 1981 and Edina West became Edina High School.



Edina Public Schools photo

In 1972, Edina West – Upper Division joined the Valley View – Lower Division campus on the former Davis Family farm at Valley View and Antrim Roads.

Brick Cahill School Closed In 1978

In 1978, the brick Cahill School closed and its students were transferred to Creek Valley Elementary on Gleason Road. From 1978 to 1989, part of the Cahill building was used by School District 273 for its administrative offices and the remaining space was leased to the Eden Prairie School District and a Montessori school. District 273 vacated the building in September 1989 and moved its offices to the present location in the former Edina East High School building.

In July 1990, the former Cahill Elementary building was

razed and the land was sold.

All Kindergarten Classes Combined In 1989

In 1987, all Edina kindergarten classes were consolidated at the Edina Kindergarten Center, located in the former East High School building. By 1993, kindergarten classes had been moved back to the neighborhood elementary schools.

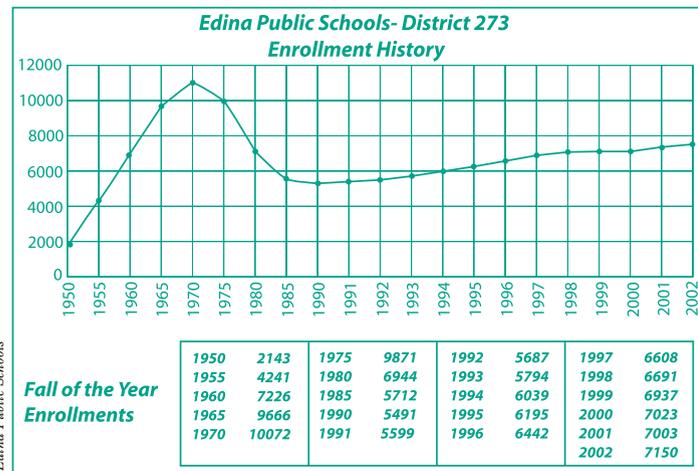
The space occupied by the Edina Kindergarten Center became Normandale Elementary French Immersion School. It now shares the former high school building with the Edina Community Education program, the administrative offices of Independent School District 273 and several other tenants. Since 1993, parents of Edina’s grades K-5 students have been able to choose from three options for their children. Today, 70 percent opt for the traditional neighborhood school program, 20 percent elect for the French immersion program at Normandale Elementary and the remaining 10 percent choose the district’s continuous progress alternative offered at Highlands and Countryside elementary schools.

Edina Schools’ Excellence Requires Support of Entire Community

In a recent statement, Edina Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Dragseth said, “Striving for excellence challenges both educators and families. It requires the support of the whole community. We thank the residents of Edina for their whole-hearted support of learning and learners.”

Background material and photographs for this article came from the archival collections of the Edina Historical Society, Minnesota Historical Society, Communications Department,

(continued on next page)



Enrollment in Edina's schools grew dramatically during the "baby boom" of the 1950s and 1960s. In 1950, the combined enrollment of the new high school and the two elementary schools totaled 2,143. By 1970, after construction of six more elementary schools and two junior high schools, enrollment peaked at 11,072. During the following two decades, after Edina's "baby boomers" had passed through the schools, enrollment bottomed-out at 5,491 in 1990. Since then annual enrollment has grown moderately, reaching today's total of 7,150.

Edina Public Schools; the personal recollections or writings of Dennis Maetzold, Catherine (Ryan) Garrison, John McCauley, Jack Delaney and Dr. Kenneth Dragseth; and the following publications: "Through the years in Edina-Morningside Public Schools" by Mrs. Charles E Johnson updated by Mrs. Franz Jevne, Jr.; "The History of Edina, Minnesota" by Paul D. Hesterman; "History and Architecture

of Edina, Minnesota" by William A. Scott, A.I.A. and Jeffrey A. Hess; "NewsNet" a publication of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Edina; "Edina Front Page" and other publications of Edina Public Schools; Minneapolis Star; Minneapolis Tribune; Minneapolis Journal; Edina Sun; Edina Sun-Current and Minneapolis Star Tribune.

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Mowing

Regular mowing with a sharp blade at the proper mower height keeps grass growing vigorously so it covers the soil surface. For most lawn areas, mowing at a height of two to three inches provides a good quality turf. This height screens out light to the soil surface, providing some weed control by preventing the establishment of weed seeds such as crabgrass that need light to germinate. Please observe the following mowing heights for a healthy and better-looking lawn.

- Kentucky bluegrass: Common or public varieties such as South Dakota Common, Park, S-21, Argyle, Kenblue, 2-3 inches; Improved varieties included in most sod beds, 1½ -2 ½ inches.
- Fine fescue grasses: 1½ -3 inches.
- Perennial ryegrass: 1½ -2½ inches.
- Bluegrass/fine fescue mix: 1½ -2 ½ inches.
- Bluegrass/perennial ryegrass mix: 1 ½ -2½ inches.

Information: Park Maintenance Superintendent Vince Cockriel, 952-826-0305.

Grass Clippings

Keep grass clippings out of the street to help prevent clogging the storm sewer, which can lead to water runoff, backups and flooding. Clippings in the street can become slippery and cause motor vehicle accidents. In addition, the clippings can cause mechanical problems for Edina's street sweepers.

Please help your neighborhood remain safe and free of flooding by bagging or composting your yard waste or returning grass clippings to lawn areas whenever possible. Clippings do not contribute significantly to thatch build-up and are a valuable

organic source of nutrients, especially nitrogen. Under City law, it is illegal to rake or blow yard waste into the streets.

Information: Public Works Coordinator Steve Johnson, 952-826-0301.

Tree Brush

During spring's first storm, many tree branches and twigs fall to the ground. Such brush must be hauled away. However, the city does not pick up brush left at the curbside. Residents should contact a private contractor or refuse hauler for removal or dispose of the brush at the county tree dump.

Information: Park Maintenance Superintendent Vince Cockriel, 952-826-0305.

Lawn Watering

Spring rainfall can be unpredictable. In order to ensure an adequate water supply for late summer, Edina's odd-even sprinkling policy goes into effect May 1 and continues through August.

Homes with even-numbered addresses may water their lawns on even-numbered dates of the week. Homes with odd-numbered addresses may water on odd-numbered dates. So, the family living at 5111 W. 49th St. could water their lawn on odd-numbered dates - May 1, 3, 5 and so on.

If the weather becomes exceptionally dry for an extended period of time, additional water restrictions might be put into place. However, because residents have faithfully observed the odd-even sprinkling policy, the City has had very few water emergencies in the past.

Information: Utilities Superintendent Roger Glanzer, 952-826-0311.

Hot Happenings In Park And Recreation

The City of Edina Park and Recreation Department has many programs and activities for youth to stay active during the summer months. Here is a sampling of the offerings:



Fishing clinic

Fishing Clinic

Children can learn the art of fishing at Centennial Lakes Park. Participants will play interactive games, participate in habitat site studies, get their hands dirty handling bait and try their luck as anglers. In addition to instruction, each child will receive a fishing starter tackle box. At press time, dates for the clinics were not available, but clinics will be offered in June, July and August. Cost is \$7 per child participant. Adults are free and welcome. For more information, call Centennial Lakes Park Special Events Coordinator Stacy Maas, 952-832-6789.

Ice Skating

Registration begins May 1 for summer ice skating lessons. Summer ice skating lessons are offered mid-June through mid-August. Flyers will be available after May 1 at Braemar Arena or online at www.braemar-arena.com. For more information, including lesson and open skating times, call the Arena, 952-941-1322.

Playground Program

Days are filled with games, activities and special events for children enrolled in a summer Playground Program. The program is open to children ages 6 to 10. A special program is also available for youth ages 9 to 12. Qualified park leaders staff the programs, which run from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays at several area parks. Participants enjoy time with friends, play new games and old favorites, make crafts and enjoy special events. Regular attendance is not mandatory – participants can come and play when convenient. Cost is \$21 per session, per participant. Pre-registration is required. For more information, including park locations, call the Park and Recreation office, 952-826-0367.

Send In The Clowns

Creative, fun-loving individuals ages 9 to 14 can learn to “clown around” in a new Park and Recreation program. A series of classes will help budding clowns develop their own characters, apply makeup and work with an audience. The new clowns will march in the City’s July 4 parade, hand out candy and interact with the crowd. Classes will be held June 17, 19, 24, and 26 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Todd Park. Cost is \$35 per person. For more information, call the Park and Recreation office, 952-826-0367.

Super 6 & 7

New this year is a playground program for 6 and 7 year olds who would excel in a structured environment. The program will offer a variety of activities. Parents must check children in and out each day. Super 6 & 7 will meet 1 to 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays at Todd Park. Cost is \$35 per session. For more information, call the Park and Recreation office, 952-826-0367.

Tennis Lessons

Did you know that more than 500 people, adults and youth signed up for an Edina Park and Recreation program last year to learn about or improve their skills in the game of tennis? Tennis programs are offered in June and July. For more information, call the Park and Recreation office, 952-826-0367.

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Edina Historical Society Turns Back Hands Of Time For Youth

Dressed in a white blouse, black jacket, long skirt, boots and simple brooch, the teacher outside of the one-room school rings the bell, signaling the start of the day. The students who have come to class file into two rows and enter the school.



Photo by Polly Norman

Anita Wardlaw is one of three teachers at the Old Cahill School.

Most are dressed in long skirts with bonnets, denim overalls or white shirts with suspenders. Some carry small silver buckets with their lunch inside, covered with red handkerchiefs.

Inside the school, Marm Anita Wardlaw addresses the students, rapt with attention. “Are you brave enough to journey back to 1900?” she asks. “Do not be afraid; stand strong. I will turn in a circle and when I face you again, we will pretend it is 1900.”

With 27 pairs of young eyes watching her every move, the school marm turns 360 degrees. Then, she says, “You didn’t come to school today on a big yellow bus. You walked a long way – probably two to five miles. You are all farm children in the Township of Edina. Let’s be seated.”

Desks are assigned according to height with shorter students sitting in front and taller students in the back. There is silence during the seating process, which takes several minutes. Waiting to be beckoned to a desk, students stand straight up with their hands at their sides. Marm

Wardlaw, they know, does not stand for fidgeting or whispering. Once they are all seated, the teacher says, “Place one hand properly over the other [on top of your desk] and keep a pleasant look on your face. This is how all students sit in 1900.”

Then, Marm Wardlaw explains the rules for her classroom: do right, control yourself and enjoy yourself. Then, class begins.

Classes organized by the Edina Historical Society at the Old Cahill School are taught as they would have been at the turn of the century. Topics of the day include manners, morals, grammar, penmanship, reading, arithmetic, hygiene/physiology, weather and history.



Photo by Polly Norman

Marm Wardlaw calls on a student during class. When a student is called upon, he or she “slides and stands” from a turn-of-the-century wooden desk, stands up straight and answers loudly – as any student would have done 103 years ago.



Photo by Polly Norman

Many second- and third-grade students who come to the Old Cahill School often come in period dress. Girls wear long dresses and bonnets with pigtails or braids in their hair. Boys often wear denim overalls or white shirts and suspenders.

In addition, a spelling bee is held and indoor and outdoor games played. Lunch is eaten next door at the historic Grange Hall.

The one-room rural schools that were once the mainstay of education in Minnesota have largely disappeared. Of those that exist, many have been abandoned or converted for other uses. The Old Cahill School, relocated from the Cahill neighborhood of Edina to

its present location in Tupa Park at 4918 Eden Ave., remains as a place for education.

“Through our programs at the Old Cahill School, the history of Edina is presented to children in a real and graphic manner,” said Edina Historical Society Executive Director Kathleen Wetherall. “Through the one-day classes there, children identify with the people and events of early Edina and the rest of Minnesota. At the same time, one of the few remaining one-room country schools in the county has been restored and preserved for future generations.”

The Old Cahill School operates 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every day that classes are in session during the school year.

Three “teachers,” two of who are actresses, take turns during the week leading the classes. Over the nearly 30 years that the Society has operated the school, there have been just five teachers. Flo Moynihan was the first teacher.

The historical educational center was first proposed in 1971 to give students the opportunity to spend a typical day in a one-room country school of the early 1900s. It opened in the fall of 1975. The main objective now, as it was then, is to help children experience history by actually sitting in the old wooden desks, using slate boards, looking through school books of the period and playing old-fashioned games.

Second- and third-graders from all over the region come to the Old Cahill School for lessons in history. A school from Superior, Wis., comes the furthest on an annual basis. The Edina Historical Society books classes in August, before the start of the school year. Classes pay \$150 each for the experience, which results in a break-even venture for the Society.

“The children love [coming to the school],” said Wetherall. “They are enraptured with it. One little boy was having such a good time that he did not want to go back to the present year. He hid under his desk at the end of the day, hoping to stay in the year 1900!”

For more information on the Old Cahill School or other programs of the Edina Historical Society, visit its museum at 4711 W. 70th St. in Arneson Acres Park or call 952-928-4577. The museum is open 9 a.m. to noon Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays and by appointment.

New Laws Curb Use Of Phosphorus On Lawns

In Edina and the rest of Minnesota, residents have just a short time to enjoy their yards. As a result, many take advantage of them during the spring and summer months, using them as play areas, gardens and places to gather with friends and family.

Many also spend a great deal of time and money making sure their shrubs, trees, flowers and lawns look great. Traditionally, in addition to hours spent under the hot sun, this high-maintenance type of yard care has included large quantities of water, fertilizers, pesticides, weed control and money. However, environmental landscaping has become increasingly popular in recent years. This type of landscaping, also called sustainable landscaping, employs some basic principles that can reduce the impact we have on the environment and the amount of time and labor spent creating a functioning, aesthetically pleasing landscape that can be easily maintained for years to come.

Among other things, these principles include reducing inputs such as fertilizer into the environment. Next year, a state law banning the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus will go into affect. No fertilizer with any amount of phosphorus, used to stimulate early root growth and promote early plant vigor, can be used in the seven-county metropolitan area after January 2004. Since August 2002, spilling or spreading fertilizer on hard surfaces has been prohibited. Any spillage must be picked up immediately.

Improper management and use of turf fertilizers such as phosphorus can contribute to pollution of both surface water and groundwater. That is one of the reasons the new state laws were created. Avoiding over-application of these materials and basing lawn nutrient requirements on a reliable soil test are the first steps in responsibly using fertilizers to protect water resources. Following are some additional general fertilization practices recommended by University of Minnesota-based Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Services that can reduce water pollution from fertilizers:

- Never directly deposit or inadvertently apply fertilizers into lakes.
- Fill fertilizer spreaders on a hard surface where spills can be cleaned up easily. Never wash fertilizer spills into the street or other hard-surface areas where fertilizer can enter storm sewers and ultimately surface water.
- Close the gate on the fertilizer spreader when crossing hard-surface areas or go back and sweep up the material for reuse.
- Never apply fertilizer to frozen ground.
- Clippings not left on lawn, leaves and other plant debris should be removed as soon as possible from street gutters, sidewalks and driveways. This plant material can be composted, used in the garden as mulch or disposed of through appropriate community services.

- When mowing lawns, do not direct clippings into the street or lake.
- Drop spreaders are more precise but slower than rotary spreaders. Near shorelines areas, apply fertilizer near the lake with a drop spreader to create a buffer zone. Then, you can fertilize the area away from the shoreline with a rotary spreader. Take the same precautions when using liquid applications.
- Avoid getting fertilizer into natural drainage areas or pathways on a property. These are not always hard-surface areas.

For more information, contact City Sanitarian David Velde, 952-826-0464, or your local lawn care and maintenance company.



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Edina Community Foundation Focuses On Ways To Strengthen Community

The Edina Community Foundation has begun a \$1 million annual fund-raising campaign and is reaching out to residents and businesses for support.

The Foundation was established in 1977 to cultivate and enrich the community spirit that has traditionally been the hallmark of Edina. The Foundation is dedicated to developing a permanent endowment of philanthropic capital from a broad range of donor sources in order to meet the charitable needs of the community. The Foundation's status as a non-profit, charitable organization offers interested individuals, families and businesses a vehicle for channeling tax-deductible donations, bequests and life income gifts to a variety of initiatives.

With the assistance of the Foundation, new and exciting programs and projects have been started and other programs are able to continue or expand. Examples of the Foundation's recent activities include the purchase of a bus used for the Dial-A-Ride program to transport seniors with limited mobility to their doctor appointments and on necessary shopping trips, providing Park Board scholarships so less fortunate children can participate in local recreation programs, purchasing thermal imaging equipment for the Edina Fire Department and assisting with funding for a new K-9 Unit for the Edina Police. The benefits of these programs and projects accrue to each and every Edina resident and help build a stronger and more vibrant community.



At present there are a variety of unmet needs in the community. Senior programs are on hold due to incomplete furnishings at the new Senior Center. Youth programs are hampered due to lack of space. Additional defibrillators are needed to assist our population in emergencies. As a result, in the coming year, the Foundation will focus its giving on projects that benefit youth and seniors, improve public safety, beautify the community and strengthen the Southdale YMCA.

"The Edina Community Foundation exists only because of the philanthropic generosity of our citizens and businesses," said Foundation President James B. Hovland. "Through the Foundation, continued philanthropic commitments from donors will make Edina an even better place to live, learn, raise families and do business. Working together, we can create and provide benefits that will be of significant and lasting importance in our community for generations to come."

The Foundation accepts all charitable gifts, will honor your specific wishes about how your charitable contribution should be used and will make responsible decisions in meeting the emerging as well as ongoing needs in Edina.

If you would like more information on the Edina Community Foundation or if you desire to discuss including the Foundation in your planned giving, call 952-833-9573 or write to 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436. To make a tax-deductible donation, please use the enclosed envelope. If you would like your gift directed to a certain project or initiative, indicate your desires with your donation.

Construction Under Way On New Edina City Hall

The new Edina City Hall and public safety building is taking shape. The first phase of construction has been completed and crews have begun work on the remainder of the facility, scheduled to be completed in mid-November.

Adolfson & Peterson

Construction is overseeing construction of the new 57,000-square-foot building next door to the existing City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St. The first phase of the project included earthwork, footings, foundation and site utilities and was completed in February. Crews took advantage of mild weather in December and January, keeping the project on track. At press time, construction was ahead of schedule.

During the earthwork portion of the project, construction crews removed 8,000 cubic yards, or 800 truckloads, of soil from the site. Edina Country Club purchased some of the material for a project it is beginning. As a result, the City was able to save some money that would have been spent hauling the material away to a more distant location.

Several artifacts were unearthed early in the project. An antique toilet was found, but was later stolen from the site. Two building foundations were also discovered. One is believed to be that of a yellow brick schoolhouse that once



The Edina Village Hall was housed in a Quonset building from 1942 until the early 1950s. Its foundation might have been discovered during the earthwork portion of the new City Hall construction project.

stood on the property. The other is believed to be that of the first Edina Village Hall, a Quonset building erected in 1942 and torn down after the existing City Hall was built in the early 1950s.

Because of the interest in the history of the construction site, the Edina Historical Society will make a special presentation later this month. The program will be held 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, at the Edina Historical Museum, 4711 W. 70th St. Speakers will be lifelong

Edina resident Frank Cardarelle, former Park and Recreation Director Bob Kojetin, City Manager Gordon Hughes and Assistant City Manager Eric Anderson. The event is free and open to the public.

Bids for the remainder of the project were awarded in late February and early March. The bids were under the construction manager's estimate, helping to ensure that the \$10.4 million project will come in on or under budget.

"It is indeed gratifying to see the new City Hall taking shape after so many years of effort," Hughes said. "We hope that the new facility will serve the community as long and as well as the City Hall built in 1953."

For more information on the Edina City Hall construction project, contact Anderson, 952-826-0415.

Golden K Kiwanis Club, Edina Senior Center To Sponsor Barbary Coast Dixieland Band Performance

The Barbary Coast Dixieland Band will perform later this spring as a fundraiser for the Edina Golden K Kiwanis Club and Edina Senior Center.

The concert will be held 7 p.m. Friday, June 6, in the Edina Community Center auditorium, 5701 Normandale Road. Tickets cost \$15 each and are available at the Edina Senior Center, 5280 Grandview Square, or by phone at 952-833-9570.

The Barbary Coast Dixieland Band has entertained Upper Midwest audiences for more than 30 years with well-blended presentations of Dixieland Jazz, show tunes and zany humor. They have made hundreds of appearances, including the Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul's Ordway Theater and countless conventions and trade shows, and are noted for summertime entertainment on Mississippi paddlewheel boats. While their show is humorous, their specialty is Dixieland music that has earned them election to the Minnesota Dixieland Hall of Fame.

With 1,500 members and a variety of activities, the Edina Senior Center offers something for everyone 55 and older. At its new facility, the Senior Center hosts recreational, educational, health and social service events. The center features speakers, tours, card parties, sports, health screening, free income tax preparation, Edina Community Education classes, Edina Art Center classes, Elder Learning Center classes and special events, among other things.

Edina Golden K Kiwanis is a service club with a membership of about 80 mostly retired people from the Edina area. It is affiliated with Kiwanis International, a worldwide

organization whose emphasis is to help provide assistance for children in need throughout the world. The local club is 20 years old, meeting every Tuesday morning for coffee, a speaker and business session on fundraising and plans to give support to organizations serving children in the area. Organizations that have benefited from Golden K efforts are Sobriety High, Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities, Hospitality House, St. Joseph's Home for Children, Urban Ventures and Safe House of Lutheran Social Services. Other Golden K fund-raising events include Peanut Day and the sale of holiday coloring books.

For more information on the upcoming concert, call the Edina Senior Center, 952-833-9570.



The Barbary Coast Dixieland Band will perform June 6 as a fundraiser for the Edina Senior Center and Edina Golden K Kiwanis Club.

City Of Edina To Flush Hydrants In April, May

To purge rust and stagnant water from the water distribution system and identify hydrants in need of maintenance, the Utilities Division of the City of Edina's Public Works Department will flush hydrants for four weeks beginning Monday, April 14. Random hydrants are also flushed throughout the year as weather and water demand allows.

Hydrant-flushing will take place 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. In an attempt to minimize the impact on residents, hydrants will be flushed as follows:

- April 14-18** East of Minnesota Highway 100 and north of Minnesota Highway 62
- April 21-25** East of Minnesota Highway 100 and south of Minnesota Highway 62
- April 28-May 2** West of Minnesota Highway 100 and north of Minnesota Highway 62
- May 5-9** West of Minnesota Highway 100 and south of Minnesota Highway 62

Due to hydrant flushing, it is inevitable that some residents will receive rust-colored water, which can stain laundry but is safe to drink. Residents may also receive rust-colored water when areas adjacent to theirs are being flushed. Residents should check that water coming into the house is clear before doing laundry during the flushing period.

The flushing schedule is approximate. For an up-to-date flushing schedule, call the Public Works Hotline at 952-826-0375. For more information, contact Utilities Superintendent Roger Glanzer, 952-826-0311, or visit www.cityofedina.com.

DO YOU
have insurance for sewer back-ups?
Check your policy today!

Coverage for backups of sewers and basement drains is available, but not always included in a basic homeowner's insurance policy.

In addition, insurance companies that do offer the protection have varying amounts of coverage.

Check your homeowner's insurance policy to see if you have coverage for backups.

If you do not have coverage, consider adding to your policy because in most cases the City's insurance will not cover your damages in the event of an incident.

For more information, call Edina Public Works, 952-826-0311.

T. Lee Returns To The Edina Art Fair With A Triple Crown

By Jessica Shellum

T. Lee, a self-proclaimed gypsy, has been featured in the Edina Art Fair since the early 1990s. This year, the jewelry designer returns to the fair after having a remarkable year in the jewelry industry.

In 2002, Lee won the JCK Rising Star award at the Las Vegas International Trade Show and the New Designer of the Year and the Golden Apple, given for marketing efforts, at the JA New York Show.

“This has been an amazing year. I won all of these awards and opened my first gallery on Nov. 14, 2002,” Lee said. The awards stemmed from Lee attending a local basket weaving conference with her sister. From that experience came her award-winning “Woven Collection.”

Lee has been making jewelry for nearly 20 years and at the conference she had an epiphany.

“Halfway through one session on basket weaving, I remembered some 18-karat wire thread back at the



Photo by Polly Norman

T. Lee is widely known in the jewelry industry for her innovative weaving of precious metals. Lee will be one of more than 300 whose artwork is featured in the Edina Art Fair.

studio that I thought I could ‘weave,’” said Lee.

In recent years, weaving had become a more popular technique among her fellow jewelers. She returned to her studio from the conference with new found inspiration to differentiate her product from the industry. To make something different, Lee concentrated weaving jewelry from ultra-pure precious metals: 24-karat gold and 0.999-percent pure platinum.

This process was frustrating for Lee because the 24-karat gold would stretch and did not take a polish. She found an answer to her frustration in a trade magazine – a heat-treatable gold micro alloy. This metal was malleable enough to weave and heat-treatable to wear for years.

“My goal for every piece of jewelry that I sell to a customer is to make them feel confident that they are

investing in a family heirloom,” said Lee.

Known for her “Bullet Collection,” Lee is excited to bring her “Woven Collection” to the Edina Art Fair.

In 2003, the Edina Art Fair will celebrate local artists, including Lee, and national artists for its 37th year. This year’s fair will feature Lee and 300 other artists from around the country. It is an event that showcases 50th and France and is one of the community’s largest events, bringing in an average 60,000 people over a three-day period.

Throughout its 37 years, the Edina Art Fair, located at the intersection of 50th Street and France Avenue, has grown to be one of the best art shows in the upper Midwest. The Edina Art Fair sets itself apart from other fairs by offering more traditional artists and by maintaining a family-friendly fair.

When asked why the artists return from year-to-year, Executive Director of the 50th and France Business & Professional Association Colleen Jones said, “It is one of the better shows around and the artists enjoy the people that come to the fair. The quality of the art at the fair is second to none.”

Similar to Lee, the past year was a good one for the Edina Art Fair. It was Jones’ first year as executive director of the business organization. With the cooperation of the City of Edina, Jones was able to close 50th Street, allowing artists and guests more space to roam freely at the fair. Artists booths were moved onto 50th Street for the first time in the event’s history.

This year Jones looks to change the type of the art at the fair. “In the past, the fair has offered more country craft art and this year I would like to see more fine arts in the fair,” she said. “Fine arts include paintings, sculpture, clay, hand-

blown and leaded glass, photography, and jewelry.” In past years, the fair was the first full weekend in June. This year’s fair will take place Friday, May 30 through Sunday, June 1. The 50th and France Business and Professional Association Board of Directors decided to change the date due to an overlap with the Excelsior Art Fair. Last year, both fairs were on the same weekend. Board members felt that it will be more convenient for guests to offer the Edina Art Fair on a different weekend. In this way, guests can easily attend both fairs.

Fairgoers will also be able to enjoy carnival and specialty food while walking around the fair. Later in the day, the fair will provide free entertainment. However yummy the treats and sweet the sounds, the draw to the Art Fair will be the artists and their work.

“If you are looking for a one-of-a kind piece of jewelry, get to the fair early. In past years, I have sold out of jewelry by Saturday. Then, I would only have my portfolio to show guests on Sunday,” recommended Lee.

For more information on T. Lee Fine Designer Jewelry, call 612-789-2656. For more information on the Edina Art Fair, call Colleen Jones at 952-922-1524 or cjones@50thandfrance.com.

Edina School Administrator Named 2003 Superintendent of the Year

By Jessica Shellum

Edina Public Schools Superintendent Kenneth Dragseth was recently named the 2003 National Superintendent of the Year, the American Association of School Administrator's (AASA) highest honor.

The National Superintendent of the Year Award, presented Feb. 21 at the AASA national conference in New Orleans, honors outstanding public school system leaders. Dragseth was chosen from four national finalists at the 135th National Conference on Education. Other superintendents chosen as finalists were William Mathis, superintendent of the 2,100-student Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union in Brandon, Vt.; Michael Moses, superintendent of the 166,000-student Dallas Independent School District in Texas; and W. Randolph Nichols, superintendent of the 38,000-student Chesapeake Public Schools in Chesapeake, Va.

Dragseth was eligible for the national award after being selected by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) as the 2003 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year to represent Minnesota at the national conference.

Minneapolis superintendent Carol Johnson, who nominated Dragseth said, "As superintendent of the largest school



Kenneth Dragseth is the 2003 National Superintendent of the Year.

district in Minnesota, I know the challenges of leading change and promoting strong and continued community support. Ken has led a [district] that has consistently been engaged in creating and sharing innovative and effective educational programs and practices."

Superintendent of the Year nominees were evaluated on how each candidate displays leadership for learning, communications skills, professionalism and community involvement.

Dragseth has been the Edina Public Schools superintendent since 1992. However, he has been involved with Edina Public Schools since 1967. He has held a variety of leadership roles including Dean of Students, Instruction Assistant, Curriculum Coordinator, Principal, Planning Director and Assistant Superintendent.

He obtained his undergraduate degree from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn. Then, he went to the University of Minnesota where he received his master's degree in education administration and doctorate in education.

During the nomination process for the Minnesota Superintendent of the Year Award, Dragseth was asked about the challenges schools face today.

"The events of the past year have accelerated our need to make sure that, as our mission states, we 'educate responsible lifelong learners to possess the skills, knowledge, creativity, sense of self-worth, and ethical values necessary to survive and flourish in a rapidly changing, culturally diverse, global society.' The [Sept. 11] crisis placed renewed emphasis on the challenge of understanding and appreciating our diversity within our country and from a global perspective."

Those who work closely with Dragseth note his ability to create and support an environment for learning. Serving Edina Public Schools with an enrollment of 7,100 students, Dragseth helps to deliver "A World Class Education Today" through strong academics, innovative instructional strategies and extensive extracurricular activities.

Edina Mayor Dennis Maetzold said, "With Ken's leadership and vision, many 'school' events become community events. Ken is not only a leader within the school district, but within the community."

In addition to this year's National and Minnesota Superintendent of the Year awards, Dragseth has been honored with the Exemplary Board/Superintendent Relationship Award, Executive Educator 100, Administrator of the Year, Bush Executive Fellow and several Who's Who lists.

As the 2003 Superintendent of the Year, Dragseth received a gold medallion, a \$2,000 U.S. savings bond and a jacket emblazoned with the National Superintendent of the Year emblem. His high school alma mater in Rutland, S.D., will

receive a \$10,000 check in Dragseth's honor for use as a scholarship for a needy college-bound senior.

"I feel humbled by this honor," Dragseth said in response to the national honor. "There are so many people here today on the stage and in the audience that do incredible work for kids each day, and they are the true heroes."

Founded in 1865, AASA is the professional organization for more than 14,000 educational leaders across America and many other countries. It is their mission to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children.

MASA is a "professional educational association serving approximately 600 public and non-public superintendents; directors of special education; other central office administrators; and service providers throughout the state." Their mission is to establish the statewide agenda for children, serve as the preeminent voice for public education, and empower members through quality services and support.

For more information on Kenneth Dragseth and the Edina School District, contact the ISD 273 District Office, 5701 Normandale Road, Edina, MN 55424, at 952-848-3900; or e-mail staff at info@edina.k12.mn.us.

Reid Retires From Commission, But Leaves A Recycling Legacy

By Jessica Shellum

Bob Reid, a recycling zealot, will retire this year from the Edina Recycling and Solid Waste Commission after serving on the board since 1974.

Reid's interest in recycling started at Morningside Elementary School in the 1940s. Two or three times each year, the school administration of Morningside held a "Paper Sales Day." Each class was encouraged to collect as much paper as it could. Then, on the chosen day the classes would bring the paper they collected to an assigned area on a curb on 42nd Street in front of the school. The group with the largest pile of paper was given some free time to watch a Disney movie during class time.

"This was incentive for all of us to collect paper and start to recycle," Reid said.

Recycling remained an important part of Reid's life throughout his childhood and into his adult life. While working as manager of the Met Center where the Minnesota North Stars played, he would bring home 20 to 30 boxes a week of discarded glass, cans and newspaper to be recycled.

"In 1967, I would bring the recycling to Kennedy High School in Bloomington. John Koser, a Wayzata teacher who lived in Bloomington, had started a program there called C.L.E.A.N. Inc. C.L.E.A.N. collected corrugated paper, glass and metal. It was one of the first recycling facilities in the metro area and there was not a place to bring the recycling in Edina," said Reid.



Photo by Folly Norman

Bob Reid begins and ends his days recycling. Reid will retire this spring from the Recycling and Solid Waste Commission after serving for more than two decades.

In 1970, the Edina Garden Council initiated a monthly collection of glass in the parking lot of the Southdale Red Owl Store (now Cub Foods). In 1972, the League of Women Voters of Edina joined the recycling effort and the project moved to the Public Works Garage at 5121 Brookside Ave., according to Edina Recycling and Solid Waste Commission documents.

Reid was not involved with the forming of the site, but soon after it opened he became a constant volunteer.

"There were large bins in a semi-[trailer] truck that held the recycling materials collected. Often people would just drop off their materials and not separate them into the bins.

One day, I just jumped up onto the semi and started to volunteer my time," said Reid.

Throughout the years, recycling facilities have been able to add materials to their collections. In 1974, when the Edina Recycling and Solid Waste Commission was formed, newspaper, cans, glass bottles, cardboard and magazines were the only materials that were collected.

For Reid and the Commission, 1986 was a milestone year because it was the year a household collection pilot project began in Edina. With a three-person City work crew and a pickup truck, recyclables were collected monthly. Items collected included newspaper, aluminum and tin cans and brown, clear and green glass. Recycling containers were not provided and residents were asked to sort items in paper grocery bags, according to Edina archives.

"It is the highlight of all of my years with the Commission," said Reid of his involvement with the pilot program. "We worked so long and hard to get curbside recycling that to see it get on its feet in '86 was great."

In 2003, Reid is still recycling as much as he was almost 30 years ago when he helped to establish the Commission. He has enjoyed seeing the growth of materials that are recycled in Edina, from only glass to nine items.

He continues to volunteer his time to recycle at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Edina Historical Society and Friends of the Edina Community Library. This spring, he and his wife,

Elie, will retire from their many volunteer positions and move to Wausau, Wis., to be closer to family.

"We will all greatly miss him at our meetings each month. The City has gained so much from Bob Reid being involved throughout the years, his legacy will remain," said Edina Recycling Coordinator Solvei Wilmot.

For more information on recycling in Edina or the Recycling and Solid Waste Commission, contact Wilmot, 952-826-0463.

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More Than \$130,000 Donated To Park And Recreation Department In 2002

Parks and other such amenities greatly improve the quality of life in a community. The City of Edina is the fortunate recipient of many donations each year that improve its parks, adding to the quality of life enjoyed here. In the year 2002, more than \$130,000 in donations were received.



Several donations were made to fund the Edina Art Center's 25th anniversary celebration. At the celebration, young people participated in a make-one-take-one tile activity, like this one, among other things.

"The City of Edina wishes to extend thanks and appreciation to all those who made contributions to the Edina Park and Recreation Department in the year 2002," said Park and Recreation Director John Keprios.

In 2002, a new Edina Senior Center was opened at Grandview Square. Many people made donations of \$300 or more to furnish and equip the facility, including: Ede Donovan, \$500; Dick and Gloria Wank, \$500; Boz and Terri Albinson, \$2,000; Ron and Kay Bach, \$1,000; Ron and Sandra Clark, \$500; Edina Lions Club, \$500; Edina Rotary Club, \$2,500; LeRoy and Jeanne Fish, \$500; American Express, \$400; Martin and Joyce Hirabayashi, \$500; Scot Housh, \$500; Michael and Peggy Kelly, \$500; Mary C. Linvill, \$500; Joan Lonsbury, \$500; Linda Masica, \$500; Catherine Mulholland, \$500; Ed and Lisa Noonan and family, \$500; Lewis and Fern Opperman, \$1,000; Mary Porter, \$1,000; Sally Tang, \$1,000; and Bzz's, \$1,000.

Other donations of \$300 or more to the Edina Park and Recreation Department in 2002 were:

- Kiwanis Golden K Club of Edina, \$600 for the purchase of Countryside Park tree plantings.
- Claire Schwanebeck in memory of Marion Hume, \$3,000 for general park improvements.
- Edina Soccer Club and Edina Football Association, \$8,000 each, for the renovation of the Lewis Park soccer fields.
- Braemar Men's Club, \$577; Ray O'Connell, \$300; and Sally Hoyt and Vaughn Ausman, \$300; for Braemar Golf Course improvements.
- Joelle and Michael Marchio, \$439, for a bench at Centennial Lakes Park.
- BFI – Awin Management, Inc., \$3,000; M. Joan Hodges, \$500; The James and Jean Slattery Foundation, \$500; Sandra L. Clark, \$1,500; Donald M. and R. Patricia Sullivan, \$300; Thomas W. Osborn, \$500; David Baron, \$800; Marta Melin, \$300; Kim Mikulich, \$403; Claire Schwanebeck, P.R., \$3,000; Gerald Olson/M.C. Enterprises, \$300; Florence L. McHugh, \$600; and Elin Ohlsson, \$1,350; for the Edina Art Center's 25th anniversary celebration and Art Center improvements.
- Charles Gits, \$500; Timothy Montgomery, \$500; Bruce and Peggy Johnson, \$600; Brian Lawton, \$1,000; Russell and Jan Michaletz, \$1,000; Kurt and Laura Nisi, \$1,000; Eugene and Mary Frey, \$5,000; and Jeffrey and Mary Werbalowsky, \$30,000; for the development of Fox Meadow Park.
- Jerry's Enterprises, Inc., \$500; Edina Rotary Club, \$2,500; Fred Babcock VFW No. 5555, \$1,000; M&I Bank, \$2,000; Minneapolis-Richfield Legion Post No. 435, \$10,000; and PEPSI Company, \$20,000; for the development of the Tri-City Skate Park and Yorktown Park.

For more information on donations made in 2002 or to make a donation to the Park and Recreation Department, contact Keprios, 952-826-0430.

Storing Combustibles Near Water Heaters Is Dangerous

By Thomas Jenson
Edina Fire Marshal

According to the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code, combustible materials shall not be stored in boiler rooms, mechanical rooms or electrical equipment rooms. The section applies to commercial buildings, but what is good for commercial buildings should be considered practical for single-family homes.

Individuals storing clothing, paper, boxes and other combustible items next to or up against their water heaters have caused a few recent fires in Edina. The fires were totally preventable. Fortunately, these recent fires occurred while people were awake or not at home and there were no injuries. What if these basement fires occurred while the residents were sleeping? A majority of the homes in our community probably do not have basement smoke detectors. If they do, they are not interconnected to the detectors upstairs. There would be a delay in waking people up.

I started looking for a house to buy in Edina last winter. I looked at about 10 homes and over half of them had combustibles stored around the furnace and water heater. A couple of homes were packed with items. I wondered when we would be responding to a fire in these homes. If these 10 homes represented a fair sampling of homes in Edina, then there is a large potential for fire in homes in our community.

Please take the time right now to look at the area around your water heater and furnace. Remove any combustibles that are within three feet of these appliances. At the same time, look at your electrical panel and make sure that is accessible, too.

Firefighters need to access the electrical panel during a fire to shut off power to the house to protect them from electrocution.

The actions you take right now will prevent one type of fire from occurring in your home. Ask the residents from our recent fires of this type what it has cost them. We all have personal possessions, photographs and memorabilia that an insurance company cannot replace.

For more information, contact the Edina Fire Prevention Bureau, 952-826-0378.

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Edina Park And Recreation 'Clowns Around' With Community

By Jessica Shellum

This summer, children and adults will clown around with Edina Park and Recreation.

The Park and Recreation Department will offer two clowning classes – one for adults and one for children.

In the past, Edina Park and Recreation programs focused mostly on athletics with such programs as soccer and hockey. Staff is working to add more performing arts to their offerings. In addition to the clowning class, Edina Park and Recreation has added nature, balloon sculpting, magic and cheerleading classes to its summer offerings. "We would like to offer more diverse classes to the Edina community," said Recreation Supervisor Donna Tilsner.

To teach the "Clowning Around" classes, the City has hired Homeward Bound Theatre Company (HBTC). HBTC is a



Chanhasen, Minn.-based company that serves more than 65 school districts in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

HBTC Founder Bruce Kirkpatrick said, "Smiles are a familiar sight at the Homeward Bound after-school workshops."

Participants in the clowning classes will work for two to four weeks with professional theatre artists. Students will learn about clown makeup, costumes and personalities. They will be given the opportunity to explore the art of performance during the class through skits, gags, stories and magic.

Adults registered for the class will have the opportunity to go to class in costume or bring pictures of them in dress for gentle critique and brainstorming. They will learn moves that add to a performance such as double-takes, slow burns, gentle falls and non-contact slaps.

Adults and children participating in the Clowning Around classes will be asked to participate in the July 4

parade in Edina. "It is our goal to see the children from the clowning around class hand out candy and interact with the crowd at the parade," said Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller. Miller and other Park and Recreation staff members hope that there will be clowns throughout the length of the parade. If the clowns are able to hand out the candy, there should be less candy thrown into the crowd.

The parade is one of the largest community events of the year, with thousands attending every year. In the past, the City has hired professional clowns to be part of the Independence Day celebration. In addition, some companies have had their own clowns as part of their floats in the parade.

Miller and Parade Planning Committee Chairwoman Laurie Powers Jung hope that "Clowning Around" will become an annual program. "We are really excited about having the students be involved in the parade. It will be a great experience for them and give the parade a more personal feeling for the audience," said Powers Jung.

The Clowning Around classes begin mid-June. They will take place at T. Lea Todd Park, 4429 Vandervork Ave. S. The childrens' class, for youth ages 9 to 14, will meet June 17, 19, 24, and 26, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$35. The adult class, for those ages 15 and up, will meet June 24 and 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40.

For more information or to register for Edina Park and Recreation programs, call 952-826-0367.

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Country Club Neighborhood, Five Other Properties Named Heritage Landmarks

The Country Club Neighborhood, George W. Baird house, Jonathan Grimes house, Paul Peterson house, Cahill School and Minnehaha Grange Hall have been named Edina Heritage Landmarks.



George W. Baird House

In 2002, the Edina City Council revised the section of the City Code that pertains to preservation. Under the revised ordinance, owners of properties designated as “Heritage Landmarks” are required to seek approval from the Heritage Preservation Board when applying for City permits to demolish or move historic structures or do excavation work in archeologically sensitive areas. In addition, building permits for construction of new homes in Heritage Landmark Districts require a “certificate of appropriateness” to ensure that new buildings do not impair the historic character of preserved properties. Approval is not required for remodeling work or additions.

The Country Club Neighborhood is bounded by Minnehaha Creek to the west, Sunnyside Road to the north, Arden Avenue to the east and 50th Street to the

south. Approximately 550 homes are included in the district. The neighborhood, the first planned subdivision of Edina, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. However, since then, the City’s Heritage Preservation Board has struggled with addressing preservation needs there.

“Due to the National Register designation, many people assumed that there were controls in place to regulate building activity in the district,” said Associate Planner Joyce Repya, who serves as staff liaison to the board. “However, the National Register depends on the local government to provide controls and regulations. By the spring of 2001, the City had been receiving numerous calls and letters from residents of the Country Club district stressing their concerns regarding the demolition of homes in the neighborhood, as well as the proliferation of large additions which if uncontrolled could change the character of the district. The Heritage Preservation Board came to the conclusion that the time was right to consider



Jonathan Grimes House

designating the Country Club as historic ...

“With the Edina Heritage Landmark designation in place, the City is able to protect the district’s historic integrity

by ensuring that new construction is in keeping with the goals and objectives identified for the [neighborhood].”

The George W. Baird House, 4400 W. 50th St., Jonathan Grimes House, 4200 W. 44th St., Paul Peterson House, 5312 Interlachen Blvd., and Cahill School and Minnehaha Grange Hall, 4918 Eden Ave., were also designated as Heritage Landmarks.

Owned by Bradley and Arlene Forrest, the Baird House was placed on the National Register in 1978. It is a brick Victorian-Eastlake house designed by architect Charles Sedgwick. When it was built in 1886, it was part of a 120-acre farmstead operated by one of the most prominent farmers in the Edina Mills community.

The Grimes House, owned by Bruce and Karen Ferrara, was placed on the National Register in 1975. It is a Gothic Revival house with Italianate influence. When it was built in 1869, it was part of a 160-acre farmstead. Grimes was one of Minnesota’s most active pioneer horticulturists and was the first president of the Minnesota Horticultural Society. He created the jonathan apple and introduced the ginkgo and catalpa trees to the state.

Owned by Mark and Nancy Winter, the Peterson House was built in 1880 as part of a 100-acre farmstead. It is a late Victorian-Eastlake style house with significant gingerbread detailing. It is recognized as one of the few remaining Victorian-Eastlake homes in the Twin Cities area, as well as a well-preserved example of Edina’s agricultural heritage.



Paul Peterson House

The Cahill School and Minnehaha Grange Hall, owned by the City and located in Tupa Park, were placed on the National Register in 1970. Cahill School, originally located on the southeast corner of West

70th Street and Cahill Road, stood as the geographic and spiritual center of the Irish-Catholic community known as the “Cahill Settlement.” The Grange Hall was originally located on the southeast corner of Wooddale Avenue and West 50th Street at the present site of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church. It provided a critical gathering site for social, educational and civic affairs of the Village, comparable to today’s City Hall.

For more information on Edina Heritage Landmarks or the activities of the Heritage Preservation Board, contact Repya, 952-826-0462.

City Accepting Nominations For 2003 Edina Heritage Award

The City of Edina is calling for entries in its first Edina Heritage Award contest.

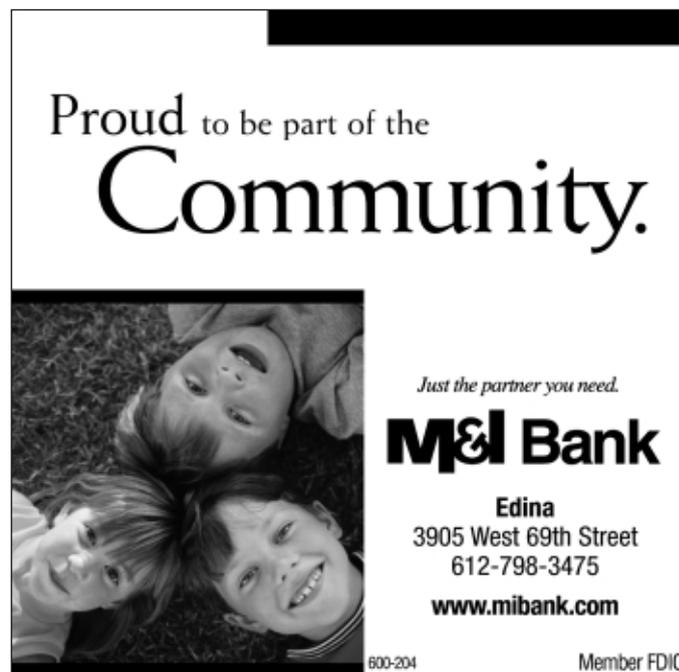
The City recently established the award to showcase local historic preservation activity. The Edina Heritage Award will be given annually to an individual, family, company or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and use of Edina's heritage resources. Any individual, company or organization is eligible for the award, including non-residents, but in order to be considered, the historic property or resource must be located in Edina. However, nominated properties do not have to be Edina Heritage Landmarks to receive the award. Current members of the City's Heritage Preservation Board are not eligible for the award.

The Heritage Preservation Board will select this year's winner. The award will be presented during National Preservation Week, May 5-12, 2003. The National Trust for Historic Preservation sponsors Preservation Week in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota and other statewide and local organizations.

Nominations are due 4:30 p.m. April 1. A nomination should include the address of the heritage resource; description of its preservation, rehabilitation and restoration; and name and address of owner. A photo should also be included.

Entries should be sent to: Edina Heritage Award, Edina City Hall, 4801 W. 50th St., Edina, MN 55424. Entries can also be e-mailed to EdinaMail@ci.edina.mn.us. A commemorative plaque will be presented to the award winner in May.

For more information, call Associate Planner Joyce Repya, 952-826-0462.



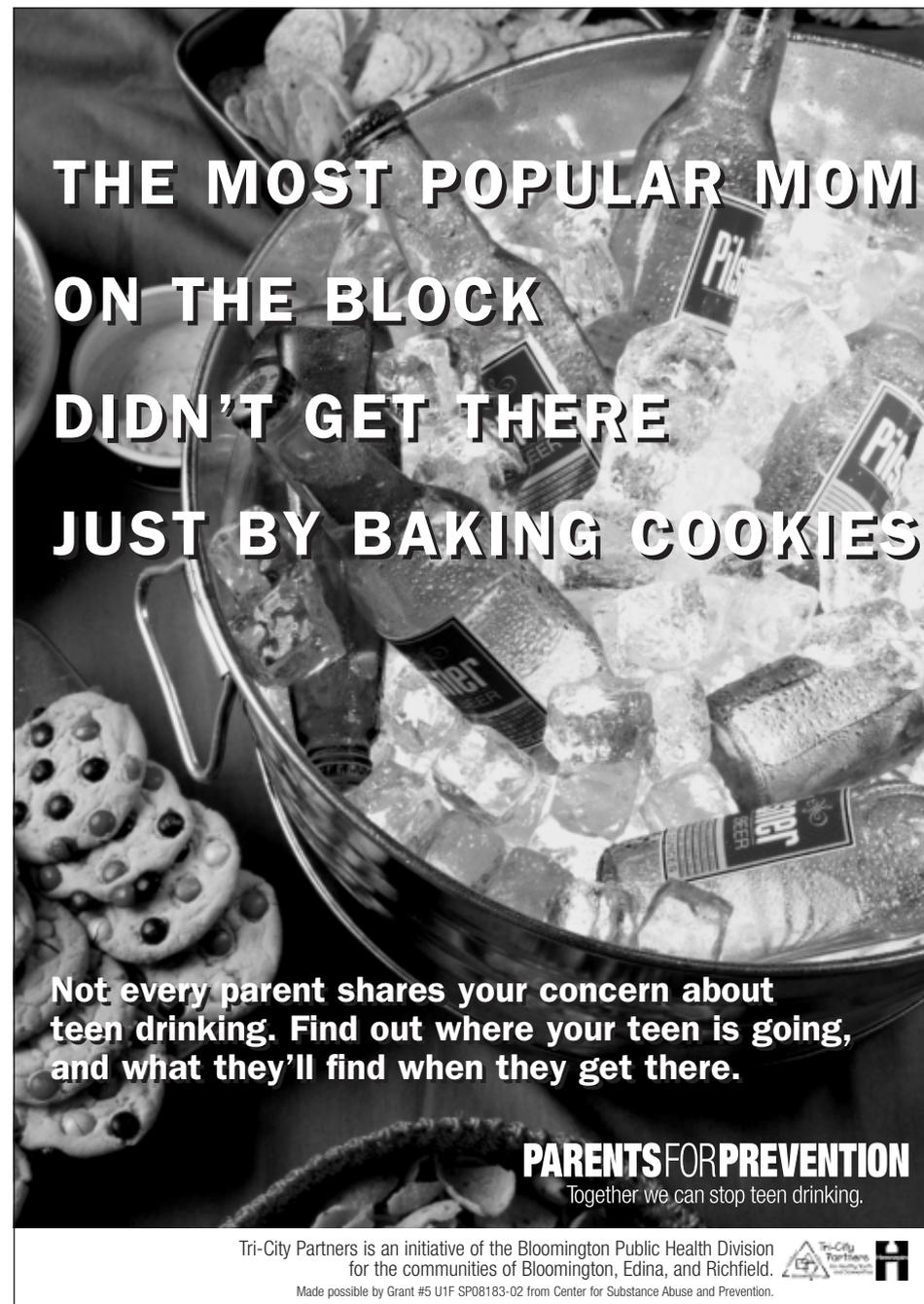
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Six-Year-Old Benefits From Park And Recreation Department's Inclusion Process

By Jessica Shellum

Six-year-old Jake is an eager kindergartner at Cornelia Elementary School. He loves to work on the computer and to play with friends at school. He especially loves his family and their dog, Riley.

Jake is not your typical 6-year-old. Jake has Down's syndrome. That does not slow him down, though. He is active in and outside of the classroom. With a little extra help, Jake enjoys many of the community programs his peers are involved in. The extra assistance he receives is through "Inclusion," offered through the City's Park and Recreation Department.

"He imitates everything that his sister does. We think that it is good for him because she helps to keep him active," said his mother, Sydney Johnson.

Last summer, Jake had the opportunity to play soccer with his peers for the first time. Although he was only able to play in three games, Jake had a terrific time. He was able to wear a uniform like his sister and thought that being part of a team was really exciting. With help from Edina Adaptive Recreation, the Soccer Association provided Jake with an Inclusion Facilitator trained specifically to work with him and meet his needs.

"Jake does not have the patience to participate in an entire game, but he will always be the team's No. 1 fan," said his mother.

Jake wants to try everything. In addition to participating in soccer, he was involved with the Playground Program. The playground program offers children ages 6 to 10

days filled with games, activities, arts and crafts, special events and more.

Jake's father, Edina Board of Education Member Jeff Johnson, coaches a Peeewe hockey team. He would like to get Jake out on the ice, but he hasn't been able to do so yet. Jake has been satisfied by being involved with his dad's team in other ways.

"He is like the team manager. The players love him and he loves them," said his mother.

In every program that Jake has been involved with, the people have interacted well with him. They have included him in the programs and accepted his abilities.

The City of Edina made the decision to provide recreation opportunities to residents with disabilities well before the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in 1990. The ADA mandates that private and public entities end discrimination against people with disabilities so that they may enjoy the same privileges as other citizens. ADA does not only require public facilities to be physically accessible, but it also requires programs held within the facilities to be accessible.

"Inclusion is the process of providing support to individuals with disabilities who want to participate in general park and recreation programs," said Recreation Supervisor Susie Miller. "Some examples of how I make sure that everyone can be involved are: providing a sign language interpreter for a softball player who happens to



Photo by Pally Norman

Jake Johnson is always happy to learn something new whether it is at school, childcare or at home. Through the Inclusion process, he is able to enjoy many of the City's Park and Recreation Department programs.

be deaf, providing a sled for a child with a physical disability so the child can play hockey, and having a staff person available to redirect a child participating in the playground program who is having a difficult time paying attention."

Edina offers residents a choice. Residents may participate in Adaptive Recreation programs, which are programs planned specifically for individuals with disabilities, or Edina residents with disabilities may choose to be included in general park and recreation programs through the Inclusion process.

When asked about whether or not she thought Jake's inclusion was a success, Sydney Johnson said, "Yes! Jake gets so much out of the programs and I think that the other kids enjoy getting to know him, too."

For more information on Adaptive Recreation or to register for a program, contact the adaptive recreation supervisor at 952-826-0433 voice or 952-826-0379 TTY.

Home Rehab Funds for Qualified Edina Home Owners



You may qualify for up to \$20,000 to make repairs or necessary improvements to your Edina home through the **Hennepin County Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program.**

This program provides deferred repayment funds on a first-come-first-served basis to people who can show financial need. If you would like to receive information, income guidelines, qualification summaries, interest rates, and applications, please call Associate Planner Joyce Repya at the Edina Planning Department, (952) 826-0462. Dozens of Edina residents have protected the value of their homes by using this program. If your primary residence is located in Edina and needs repair or structural improvements, please give Joyce a call.



**CITY OF EDINA
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Edinborough Park To Feature New Play Area



After 15 years, the Edinborough Park ice skating rink will close. An indoor play structure will be constructed in its place.

After 15 years of delighting ice skaters from throughout the area, the ice skating rink at Edina's Edinborough Park will melt away forever this May, as the rink compressors are shut down for the final time.

"It's sad to see the rink go," said Park Manager Tom Shirley, "but ultimately the intimacy and atmosphere that made the rink unique contributed to its demise. It was simply too small a rink to attract the number of skaters necessary to cover operating expenses. With an additional \$100,000 in repairs needed for the rink in the next few years, it became obvious that we wouldn't be able to justify spending that much on an undersized ice sheet that already loses money."

Opened in 1987, the 44-by-44-foot Edinborough Park ice rink was one of several recreational amenities at the innovative indoor park, which also includes a swimming pool, track, tot lot and multi-purpose room. At the grand opening of the park, Olympic figure skater Charlie Tickner performed on the rink to the delight of the capacity crowds. Throughout the years, the ice rink has hosted a multitude of open skating sessions, private lessons, skating schools and ice shows.

One of the more unique aspects of the ice rink is the park ice resurfacer. Custom-built and designed by the Frank J. Zamboni Company, the resurfacer scrapes and cuts the ice, and lays down up to 20 gallons of hot water, ensuring an optimal sheet of ice every time. The Zamboni Company now manufactures and markets this machine as its Model 100 Zamboni.

Although the park will no longer have an ice skating rink, that doesn't mean that visitors will have less to do. In fact, quite the opposite is true. In an effort to make Edinborough Park operate financially on a break-even

basis, the small indoor ice skating rink will be removed and an indoor play structure installed in its place. Surveys indicate such an amenity would be attractive to park users.

The play structure will include five or six slides, climbing structures, catwalks, tunnels and activity panels. According to preliminary plans, it will be one of the tallest indoor play structures in Minnesota. The new structure would also be completely accessible, something that cannot be said of the current structure, which can only be reached by climbing a long set of stairs.

"Our current play structure has always been the park's most popular amenity," said Shirley. "Unfortunately, because it is so small, it can easily be overwhelmed by the number of kids wanting to use it. The new structure will be able to handle a much larger number of kids on a wider variety of play elements."

Construction on the new play area is expected to begin in late May, with a completion date of Sept. 1. When the renovation is complete and the playground open, park patrons will be charged a nominal fee to use the new amenity.

Edinborough Park staff estimates that the new amenity will generate more than \$90,000 in revenue per year. In addition, operating costs will be significantly less than the costs to operate and maintain the ice skating rink.

For more information on the closing of the ice skating rink or construction of the new indoor play structure, contact Shirley or Assistant Park Manager Ann Kattreh, 952-832-6790.

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A Golden Celebration: Edina High School Concert Band Celebrates 50 Years

By Jessica Shellum

They are just teenagers, but some Edina High School students recently celebrated their golden anniversary. The Edina High School Concert Band held its 50th annual Pops Concert in February and March.

Butler Eitel directed the first Pops Concert at Edina Morningside High School in the spring of 1954 to give his students an opportunity to perform music in a format different from the standard formal band concert. "Pops" became a celebration of popular music.



William A. Webb leads a rehearsal of music for the 50th annual Pops Concert of the Edina High School Concert Band. "Golden Celebration" was performed in February and March.

The Edina Morningside High School yearbook, *Whigreen*, of 1954, reflected on the first Pops. It read, "The concert of light music that was presented on March 10 was received so well that it is sure to become an annual event."

This year's Pops concert was dubbed a "Golden Celebration." Opening night featured a world premiere of a piece composed by College of St. Olaf Band Director Timothy Mahr. The piece, "sssssplashhhhh!!!," was commissioned specifically for the 50th Annual Edina Pops Concert. In addition to the premiere, this year's concert included pieces that have become a tradition in the concert, such as Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture, op. 49."

Through the years, Pops has changed in many ways, but it has always been considered an outstanding band concert that reflects the times. It has grown to include one-liners, skits, solos, ensembles, band humor and other choreographed dance and vocal numbers. Pops has entertained approximately 300,000 audience members throughout its 50 years.

Current Concert Band Director William A. Webb said, "The Pops Concert consists of spectacular music, entertaining skits and camaraderie through music."

Pops has been privileged to have had a remarkable team of directors throughout its 50 years. Eitel, founder of Pops, was director from 1953 to 1964 at Edina Morningside High School. In 1964, Ed Melichar took over as director and carried on Eitel's tradition until 1987. During his time as director in Edina, Melichar also directed Edina West High

School from 1972 to 1982. Edina East was directed by Bob Elledge from 1972 to 1982. During the time that there were two high schools, two Pops Concerts were presented. Then, in 1983, when the two schools merged together to form Edina High School, one Pops Concert was held. After Melichar's retirement in 1987, Webb took over and has had the opportunity to carry on the tradition.

This year, the band was proud to reconnect with five of its 2,500 alumni. They welcomed Stanford Freese, Amy and Sara Hamann, Scott Crosbie and Phillip D. Holm. Freese is the director of Talent, Casting and Booking at Disney; the Hamann sisters perform professionally throughout the world; Crosbie is the founder, artistic manager and conductor of the First John Philip Sousa Band; and Holm is the current band director at South View Middle School. Each performed solos with the band during separate performances.

In addition to the Pops Concert, the Edina High School Concert Band of juniors and seniors has had many accomplishments over the past 50 years. It has made appearances at prestigious band conventions and has traveled the world. This year, they had the opportunity to play on a Caribbean Cruise during spring break. Also, for the past 49 years, the Concert Band has received the highest rating possible at the annual Minnesota State High School League Large Group Contest.

When asked what his most memorable band moment was, senior clarinet player Conrad Wilson replied, "Pops Concert because we put so much into it once a year. My

mom, Victoria Linner-Wilson, was also in the Pops Concert 30 years ago."

For more information on the Edina High School Bands, contact the Edina High School Band Office at 952-848-3123, or e-mail staff at edinabands@earthlink.net.

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